

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4605

February 24, 2021

The Honorable Ralph S. Northam
Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Governor Ralph Northam,

We write to you to express our firm opposition to forcing Virginia taxpayers to fund abortions. We urge you not to sign SB 1276, which would end the Commonwealth's prohibition on private health insurance plans that cover elective abortions from the Virginia exchange.

There is longstanding bi-partisan consensus that hard-earned taxpayer money should not fund elective abortion. This tradition has long been codified at both the federal and state level. Congress first enacted the Hyde Amendment in 1976, which prohibits federal dollars from funding elective abortions, along with similar longstanding appropriations statutes. Similarly, the Commonwealth of Virginia has not permitted health insurance plans that cover abortion from being purchased on its state regulated healthcare exchanges. These important protections at the federal and state level transcend the abortion debate, as they protect the conscience rights of taxpayers who do not want to be compelled to fund procedures that they find morally objectionable.

As President Biden once explained, "Those of us who are opposed to abortions should not be compelled to pay for them." While President Biden has wavered on his commitment to this timeless principle, we urge you not to sign any bill that would undermine this longstanding bi-partisan safeguard on taxpayer funding.

Sincerely,



Rep. Bob Good



Rep. Ben Cline